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HOUSE MEMORIAL 87

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Irvin Harrison

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD TO STUDY WAYS TO IDENTIFY THE TRANS FAT CONTENT IN RESTAURANT FOOD AND CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO CUSTOMERS AND TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR USE OF TRANS FATS.

WHEREAS, trans fat is a chemically created fat that is unhealthy for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, trans fat consumption should be kept as low as possible, according to the 2005 dietary guidelines for Americans, the American heart association, the American diabetes association, the world health organization and the national cholesterol education program; and

WHEREAS, consumption of trans fat raises bad cholesterol levels and lowers good cholesterol levels, causing arteries to become clogged and increasing the risk of developing heart

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1 disease and stroke, and is linked to obesity; and

2 WHEREAS, heart disease is the number one killer in the  
3 nation and New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, the annual death rate for heart disease in New  
5 Mexico is one hundred seventy-seven per one hundred thousand  
6 people, and at least sixty percent of New Mexico adults are  
7 overweight or obese; and

8 WHEREAS, at least twenty-seven percent of New Mexico high  
9 school students and twenty-four percent of children aged two to  
10 five are overweight; and

11 WHEREAS, obesity acquired during childhood and adolescence  
12 is likely to persist into adulthood and increase the risk for a  
13 number of chronic diseases; and

14 WHEREAS, the food and drug administration now requires  
15 food companies to list trans fat content separately on the  
16 nutrition panel of all packaged foods, and nutrition labels now  
17 list any measurable amount of trans fat in a separate line on  
18 the total fat section under saturated fat; and

19 WHEREAS, trans fats used in cooking are not as easily  
20 assessed as those on packaged food labels; and

21 WHEREAS, lawmakers in at least thirteen states and  
22 numerous cities have enacted or introduced some kind of trans  
23 fat legislation; and

24 WHEREAS, some restaurant chains have voluntarily  
25 eliminated trans fats, as have the Ohio state university campus

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1 and the girl scouts;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the  
4 environmental improvement board be requested to study ways to  
5 identify the trans fat content in restaurant food and to convey  
6 this information to customers; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the environmental improvement  
8 board be requested to develop workable guidelines for the  
9 restaurant industry on ridding foods of trans fat and on  
10 recommended limits of trans fat content; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the chair of the environmental improvement  
13 board, the secretary of health and the New Mexico restaurant  
14 association.

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